DC

16

HARLEY QUINN

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

LAYOUT: Dan Jurgens
THE MONITOR & ANTI-MONITOR: Jim Lee & Scott Williams
TRIGON: Todd McFarlane
THE SPECTRE: Alex Ross
DARKSEID: Walter Simonson

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ARES & HIPPOLYTA: Phil Jimenez
CHEETAH & THE AMAZONS: Colleen Doran
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VIGILANTE: Dave Gibbons

CHESHIRE: Joëlle Jones
BROTHER BLOOD: Darryl Banks
BLACKFIRE: Mike McKone
GIZMO & MAMMOTH: Klaus Janson
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PSIMON: Mikel Janín
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SUPERGIRL: Gary Frank
HARBINGER: Adam Hughes

PARIAH: Daniel Sampere
JERICHO & KOLE: Nicola Scott
THE NEW TEEN TITANS, DEATHSTROKE & GEORGE PÉREZ:
José Luis García-López
COLORS: Hi-Fi

"I MET HARLEY QUINN ON A TUESDAY..."

GOTHAM CITY. THEN.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

SEE YA LATER, BATSY!

THE VERDICT PART 4

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Colorist IVAN PLASCENCIA Letterer ANDWORLD DESIGN
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Edited by BEN ABERNATHY
HARLEY QUINN created by PAUL DINI and BRUCE TIMM
The "Progress" Pride Flag in the DC Logo designed by DANIEL QUASAR

"...SHE ROBBED A BANK...OR MAYBE IT WAS A JEWELRY STORE..."

LITTLE RED CONVERTIBLE THAT I STOLE FROM A CAR LOT AND HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH HORSEPOWER YA GOT...

SKREEEEEE

MPH

"...MY MEMORY IS A LITTLE *FOGGY* ON A FEW THINGS ABOUT THAT NIGHT..."

...DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

MPH

OH...

MPH

SKREEK

"...BUT ONE THING I WILL *NEVER FORGET* IS THE WEIRD TENSION IN THE AIR..."

"IT WAS LIKE EVERYONE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH ***CAFFEINE,*** OR THE FLOOR HAD AN ELECTRIC CURRENT RUNNING THROUGH IT.

"I'VE WORKED ROBBERIES, MURDERS, KIDNAPPINGS... YOU NAME IT...

"...BUT ***NOTHING*** EVER FELT THE SAME AS HAVING TO GO AFTER ONE OF ***THEM***...

"...THE COSTUMES."

PSSSST! BATS...

...WHAT'S A GIRL GOTTA DO TO GET A LITTLE ***MOUTH-TA-MOUTH,*** HUH?

DROWN.

RUDE. ***CLEVER...*** BUT RUDE.

DON'T S'POSE ANY OF YA GOT SOME ***SNACKS*** IN ONE OF THOSE LITTLE BELT POCKETS?

YOU'D BE ***SURPRISED*** BY HOW ***HUNGRY*** CRASHIN' OFF A BRIDGE AND NEARLY DROWNIN' CAN MAKE YA.

"THE JOKER AND HARLEY...MORE THAN ***ANY*** OF THE REST..."

"...THOSE TWO COULD BE *UNPREDICTABLE.*"

...THERE ONCE WAS A GOAT NAMED BILLY GOAT STEVE...

...WHO SAT IN THE YARD AND DRANK ICED TEA...

COME ON! I *KNOW* YOU ALL KNOW THE LYRICS TO THIS ONE...

"AND *UNPREDICTABLE* GETS PEOPLE *KILLED.*"

THE BILLY GOAT WAS GRUFF, BUT NOT VERY MEAN...

CAN SOMEONE SHUT THAT CLOWN UP?!

...I THINK IT'D BE COOL IF HE WORE DENIM JEANS...

HOW MANY MORE VERSES BEFORE THE CAPTAIN PUTS HER IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR?

I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S SINGING OUT OF TUNE ***INTENTIONALLY*** AT THIS POINT.

OH! BILLY GOAT STEVE, BILLY GOAT STEVE, WHY DID YOU CHEW ON MY RED FLANNEL SLEEVE?!

THEY'LL TAKE HER TO ARKHAM?

THANKFULLY.

WANTED

I WONDER WHAT THAT'S LIKE...

YOU WONDER WHAT IT'S ***LIKE*** TO BE LOCKED AWAY IN AN ASYLUM FULL OF ***SUPER-VILLAINS*** AND ***MASS MURDERERS,*** SAM?

I'M NOT SAYING I ***WANT*** TO BE ***LOCKED*** AWAY THERE...JUST... IT'S INTERESTING, DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS KIND OF INFAMOUS GOTHAM CITY INSTITUTION...YOU HEAR THE STORIES. JOKER, RIDDLER, ***HARLEY...*** THE RIOTS, THE BREAKOUTS...

...THIS ONE GUY FROM HOMICIDE TOLD ME THEY HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED ROOM JUST TO HOLD KILLER CROC. HE SAID IT'S GOT THESE GIANT ***CHAINS*** AND ***ELECTRICAL SPIKES--***

ELECTRICAL SPIKES?

I BET JAKE TOLD YOU THAT...JAKE'S NEVER EVEN ***BEEN*** TO ARKHAM.

AND ***YOU*** HAVE, GARY?

I ***HAVE.***

WAIT... *WHAT?* WHY HAVE YOU NEVER TOLD ME THIS BEFORE?

NOTHING TO TELL, SAM. IT WAS WELL BEFORE YOU AND I WERE PARTNERS...I WAS JUST A ROOKIE.

DELIVERING SOME COURT DOCUMENTS, THAT'S ALL. I DIDN'T GO FURTHER THAN RECEPTION.

I NEED MORE DETAILS THAN *THAT.*

I DON'T KNOW... IT WAS... *LOUD.*

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I HAVE *NO* INTEREST IN GOING BACK.

THEN I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT...

...PAYNE, HOFFMAN... WE NEED A PRISONER TRANSPORT.

PLEASE TELL ME IT'S FOR THAT GUY WE PICKED UP FOR ***INDECENT EXPOSURE...*** OR THE CARJACKER... LITERALLY ***ANYONE*** BUT THE CLOWN, LANCE...

IT'S ***JUST*** A TRANSPORT. AND S.W.A.T. WILL BE IN THE BACK WITH THE PRISONER.

YEAH. IT'S ***JUST*** A TRANSPORT, GARY...

"YOU KNOW WHAT'S ALMOST ***MORE*** DANGEROUS THAN UNPREDICTABILITY...?"

"...NAIVETE."

GET YER HANDS OFFA ME...

...YA FILTHY *PIGS!* JUST WAIT TILL MISTER J HEARS ABOUT THIS!

SWAT

SWAT

"SURE, I'VE CLEANED UP THE MESSES LEFT BY *GOTHAM'S WORST...*"

"BUT THE MASKS...THEY ALWAYS SEEMED...SO MUCH... *LARGER-THAN-LIFE...*

OH MY GOD! THUMPER?! *THUMPER BABBIT?!* I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S *YOU.*

THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS AT THAT GUY BRAD'S PARTY SENIOR YEAR WHERE YOU GOT DRUNK AND STARTED MAKING BRACELETS OUT OF YOUR OWN HAIR...

HUH?

WAIT A MINUTE... *YOU'RE* NOT THUMPER.

N-NO...

"THE POINT IS...I WASN'T PREPARED TO STAND THERE WITH *THE* HARLEY QUINN JUST INCHES FROM MY FACE..."

COME ON...*LET'S GO!*

I *LOVE* ROAD TRIPS!

"...AND THE ENTIRE TIME... ALL I COULD THINK..."

...ALL I COULD THINK WAS THAT SHE'S **WAY** SHORTER THAN I EXPECTED.

I WAS STARING INTO THE EYES OF A **KILLER** AND I COULDN'T GET OVER HER **HEIGHT**...

KEVIN, ARE YOU **LISTENING** TO ME?

SAM **IS** VERDICT...

...VERDICT FRAMED HARLEY...

...SO **YOU** FRAMED--

HEY... KEV...

LOOK AT ME, KEV... IT'S STILL **ME**...

I KEPT THIS FROM YOU BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO BE SAFE. I *SHOULD* HAVE TOLD YOU AND I'M TELLING YOU NOW...I'M *TRYING* TO EXPLAIN...

BUT YOU *KNOW* ME.

CLEARLY, I DON'T.

I--I SHOULD CALL THE POLICE...

WAIT... JUST GIVE ME A *MINUTE*...

JUST... LET ME FINISH EXPLAINING *WHY* I DID WHAT I DID...

THEN, IF YOU STILL WANT TO CALL THE POLICE, I WON'T STOP YOU.

PLEASE, KEVIN... *PLEASE*...

EXPLAIN...

...THEN I'M CALLING THE POLICE.

"THANK YOU, KEVIN...I NEED YOU TO *TRY* TO *UNDERSTAND*...

"...I AM NOT THE VILLAIN OF THIS STORY."

...AND THEN SHAQUILLE O'NEAL AND SOME KINDA CHINCHILLA THING ARE *LURED* INTO THE SEWER BY AN EVIL CLOWN...

WHO NEEDS A PODCAST WHEN YOU'VE GOT WHATEVER THE HELL IS GOING ON BACK THERE?

DID YOU SAY IT WAS EXIT 30 OR 13?

TAKE 13 AND THEN IT'S A STRAIGHT SHOT TO ARKHAM...

...THEY END UP IN THIS ANIMATED WORLD WHERE *EVERYONE'S* A CARTOON EXCEPT FOR DANNY DEVITO...

...AND HE'S WEARING A DIAPER AND SMOKIN' A CIGAR...

...AND THEN THEY PLAY *BASKETBALL* AND THE REFEREE IS ANGELINA JOLIE IN THIS TIGHT RED DRESS AND IT'S THE CHINCHILLA VERSUS SHAQ...

COME ON... I CAN'T THINK OF THE NAME, BUT YOU *DEFINITELY* KNOW THIS MOVIE...

HAVE *YOU* SEEN THIS MOVIE...? IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A FEVER DREAM...

SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THE 1990s *WERE* A FEVER DREAM... YA KNOW?

WE *WEREN'T* PAID TO DISCUSS MOVIES WITH HER...

...GIVE HER THE *KEY.*

WHAT KEY? I LIKE KEYS. WHY DO I GET A KEY? KEY TO WHAT? *TREASURE?* THAT'D BE COOL...

THE JOKER SENDS HIS LOVE, HARLEY...

OH, THAT KEY! THAT'S A GOOD KEY...

JUST MAKE THE ESCAPE LOOK *BELIEVABLE...* MAYBE PUNCH US A LITTLE...YOU KNOW?

KLAK

OH...I KNOW.

HEY!

BANG

UNGH!

I *TOLD* YOU I LOVE ROAD TRIPS...

CRUNCH

...THOSE LITTLE REST STOP GIFT STORES WITH KEY CHAINS THAT ***NEVER*** HAVE YOUR NAME ON 'EM...

CHOKE

...SO YOU JUST GET THE ONE THAT SAYS "STEVE" 'CAUSE IT'S FUNNY...

...***STEVE***...

SLAP

...UNLESS YOUR NAME IS ***ACTUALLY*** STEVE...

IN WHICH CASE...

...SORRY ABOUT YOUR FACE, STEVE!

DEAD

SPAKT

HRN!

GARY!

BAM BAM

BAM BAM

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HAHAHAH

...HRN...

GARY?

GARY!

NO...COME ON...THERE *HAS* TO BE A PULSE...

SOMEONE HELP!

I'LL... I'LL GET HELP, GARY...I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...I *PROMISE*...

UNGH!

HELP US!

IN HERE...WE NEED A MEDIC!

W-WHAT HAPPENED...?

IT HAPPENED SO FAST...

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I DIDN'T SEE...

WHAT DO YOU ***MEAN*** YOU ***DIDN'T SEE...?***

DIDN'T SHE HAVE ***HANDCUFFS*** ON? HOW DID SHE GET LOOSE?

I THINK A WEAPON...***YEAH...*** I SAW A WEAPON. SOMETHING SHARP...

...AND THEN SHE JUST HIT ME...IT'S...IT'S A LITTLE FUZZY RIGHT NOW...

"I WAS TOLD LATER THAT THE GUARD HAD A ***CONCUSSION...***"

"...SO ***CLEARLY*** HE COULDN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMEMBERING ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE BACK OF THE VAN.

"DETAILS THAT SOMEHOW LED TO THE ESCAPE OF A ***DEADLY*** FUGITIVE AND THE DEATH OF ***TWO*** LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS."

HOW COULD SHE JUST ***ESCAPE?*** SHE WAS SEARCHED... SHE HAD NOTHING ON HER.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE MASKS ARE CAPABLE OF, OFFICER PAYNE.

FRANKLY, I THINK WE'RE LUCKY ***YOU*** LIVED.

HOW ARE YOU NOT MORE CONCERNED? DID YOU TALK TO THE GUARD... ***MILLER,*** WAS THAT HIS NAME?

WHAT HE SAID DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. SHE ***DIDN'T*** HAVE A WEAPON--

SAM...SAM... JUST TAKE A BREATH. LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ***LOOKING*** FOR SOME KIND OF A CONSPIRACY.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A CONSPIRACY...I'M LOOKING FOR THE ***TRUTH!***

I THINK WHAT YOU NEED IS ***REST,*** OFFICER.

WE CAN REVISIT THIS ONCE YOU HAVE A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH...

"I'VE HAD ENOUGH BAD RELATIONSHIPS TO KNOW WHEN I'M BEING *GASLIT.*

"AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT MAYBE THE CAPTAIN WAS COVERING FOR SOMEONE MESSING UP THEIR JOB...

"...SOMEONE SLACKING AND LETTING SOMETHING SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS...

...YOU THINK SHE'LL FIGURE IT OUT?

WHATEVER SHE *THINKS* SHE KNOWS...OR DOESN'T KNOW...IT WILL BLOW OVER.

JUST STICK TO YOUR STORY.

AND...WHAT ABOUT *PAULY?* HE'S *DEAD* SO...WHAT HAPPENS TO HIS CUT?

YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU'RE *OWED...*

"...I COULD HAVE *NEVER* IMAGINED WHAT WAS *ACTUALLY* HAPPENING..."

...THE *JOKER'S* GOOD FOR HIS WORD.

"...GOTHAM'S *FINEST* LINING THEIR POCKETS WITH MONEY FROM *GOTHAM'S WORST.*

"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...HOW COULD I BE *SURPRISED* BY POLICE CORRUPTION...?

"REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT DEALING WITH PERPS LIKE THE JOKER AND HARLEY WAS JUST... *DIFFERENT?*

"WE HAD THIS UNSPOKEN *BOND* BETWEEN US... THIS THING WE ALL HAD IN COMMON...OR, SO I THOUGHT..."

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING IN HERE?

"THE MASKS, EVEN THE ONES WHO *SAY* THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE, ARE *NOT* YOUR FRIENDS."

YOU'RE THE REASON THEY'RE DEAD.

YOU *LET* HARLEY ESCAPE.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN *YOU* AND NOT GARY WHO DIED IN THAT VAN...

HOW MANY *PAIN MEDS* THEY GOT YOU ON, HUH?

I'M CALLING THE NURSE...YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN HERE...

"SKETCHY UNDER-THE-TABLE DEALS THAT BRING HOME A LITTLE MORE MONEY...I DON'T CONDONE THEM BUT THAT'S NOT THE SAME..."

EEPBEEPBEEPB

NO... GET AWAY FROM ME--

"...NOT THE SAME AS *KILLING* TO TAKE A CHECK FROM A *HOMICIDAL MANIAC* DRESSED LIKE A *CLOWN*."

BEEPBEEP BEE

EEPBEEPBEEP

GARY'S DEATH IS ON YOUR HANDS!

=KOFF=

PBEEPBEEP

...HRGH...

BEEE

I WAS ASSIGNED TO SOME DESK JOB AFTER THAT. THEY SAID I WASN'T ***MEDICALLY FIT*** FOR THE FIELD. THEY LATER GAVE ME LOTS OF MONEY FOR AN ***EARLY RETIREMENT...***

AND WHEN ***HARLEY QUINN*** RETURNED TO GOTHAM...I COULDN'T STOMACH WALKING AROUND A CITY WHERE THAT ***MURDERER*** IS JUST... ORDERING LATTES... CALLING HERSELF A ***HERO...***

YOU... ***KILLED*** HIM.

YEAH, AND HE'S THE REASON TWO OTHERS DIED.

HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. ***MORE*** PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...

YOU'RE A ***HYPOCRITE.***

WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME. YOU'RE A ***HYPOCRITE,*** KEVIN.

YOU USED TO WORK FOR ***THE JOKER.*** NOT ONLY DO YOU KNOW HOW BAD HE IS...BUT YOU ***HELPED*** HIM. AND YET YOU JUDGE ***ME*** FOR TRYING TO EVEN THE SCORE?

BUT IT'S NOT JUST ***COSTUMED FREAKS...*** IT'S THE ENTIRE ***INFRASTRUCTURE*** THAT ENABLES THIS.

BATMAN DOESN'T ***KILL*** THEM, THE INSTITUTIONS DON'T ***HELP*** THEM...

...THE CYCLE ***REPEATS--***

HONEY, I'M HOME

HARLEY?

AND I'M *VERY* HUNGRY...YOU GOT ANYTHING GOOD IN THE FRIDGE, KEV?

I STOPPED FOR A COFFEE BUT THEY WERE ALL OUT OF THOSE PINK FROSTED DONUTS I LOVE... SO SIMPLE...SO DELICIOUS...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, BUD... AND ALSO, I FORGIVE YOU FOR THE WHOLE *POSSIBLY-THINKIN'-I-MURDERED-SOMEONE* THING.

HARLEY, I NEED TO TELL YOU--

I TOTALLY GET IT...I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT, TOO. I MEAN, I ALMOST KINDA *DID* THINK I DID IT FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THERE...

AND I HAVE THE NUTTIEST STORY TO TELL YOU. IT INVOLVES A PRISON BREAK, AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF *SEXUAL TENSION* BETWEEN MYSELF AND A WOMAN IN BLACK SPANDEX, A GIANT EXPLOSION--

KEVIN, WHAT'S WRONG--?

UGH... WELL...

SERIOUSLY, I FORGIVE YOU. I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL NOW.

IT'S NOT...THERE'S SOMETHING--

I KNOW WHAT IT IS!

YOU NEED A HUG!

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME...

LET'S MAKE A PACT TO NEVER ARGUE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT ME OR SOME PSYCHOTIC, EVIL DOPPELGÄNGER COMMITTED MURDER--

HARLEY QUINN!

BANG

YOU'RE GUILTY...

NEXT:
THE FINAL VERDICT

DC PRIDE
2022

Art by
Joshua "Sway" Swaby

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN #125

INTERVIEW WITH CHIP ZDARSKY AND JORGE JIMENEZ

The superstar creative team of writer Chip Zdarsky and artist Jorge Jimenez launch a new era for the Dark Knight starting with *Batman* #125, and while that's good news for fans, it's bad news for Bruce Wayne. At the start of the six-part Failsafe arc, Gotham City's billionaires are being murdered, a mysterious new villain is looming, and Batman's nightmares are just beginning.

WHAT'S THE HIGH CONCEPT FOR THE FAILSAFE ARC?

Chip Zdarsky: Bruce Wayne is having nightmares of the future, and his past is catching up to him. Both of those things involve this new villain named Failsafe. I like the kind of Batman stories where he's not fully in control of the situation—and this is one of those situations. It's relentless. It's a chase across the DC Universe, so I can check off a lot of things on my bucket list.

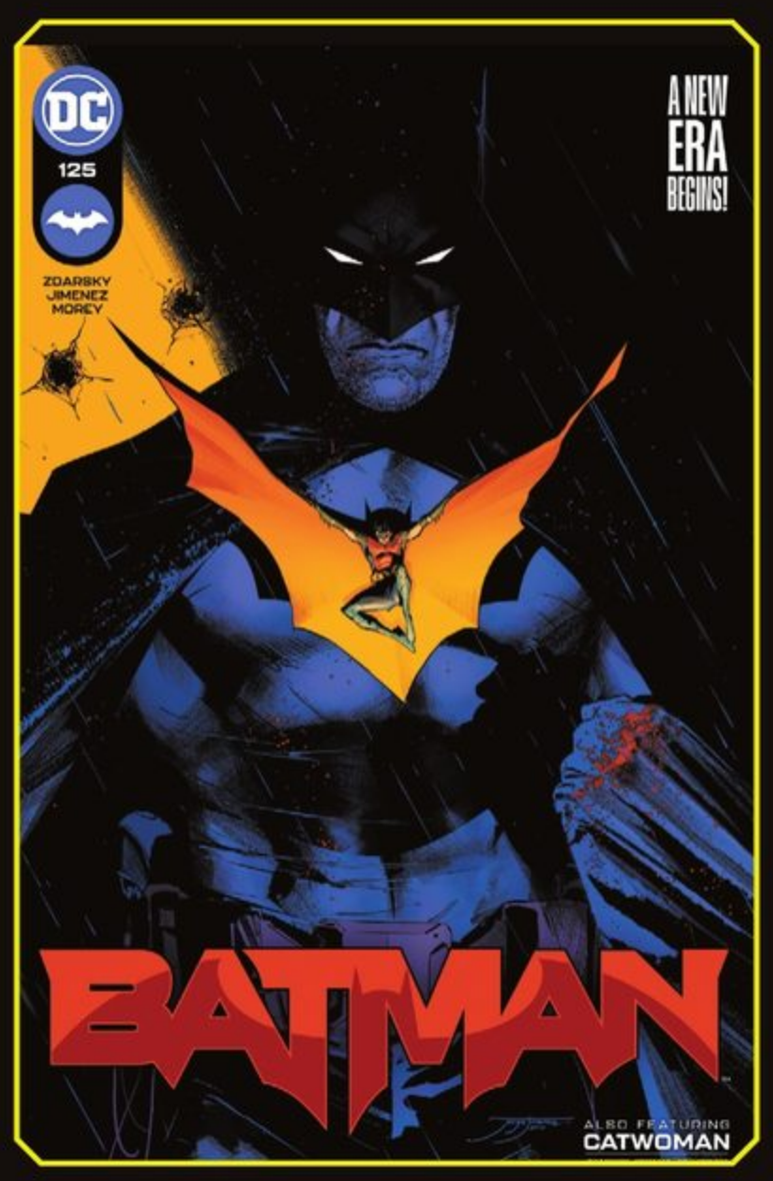
JORGE, YOU'VE DRAWN MULTIPLE MAJOR BATMAN TALES IN YOUR CAREER. HOW ARE YOU APPROACHING THIS DIFFERENTLY?

Jorge Jimenez: My main goal in this new *Batman* run is to make it feel timeless. We want to recover the essence of Batman, for it to look noir, for it to look dark, for it to feel rough! We are doing all of this at the level of both ink and storyboard, as well as color. [Colorist] Tomeu Morey is making pages that are much purer "comic book"—so that both a classic and a modern reader can enjoy this comic now and in 10 years.

WHAT CAN YOU TEASE ABOUT THE NEW VILLAIN AT THE CENTER OF THIS STORY?

Zdarsky: I really wanted a villain that felt unstoppable—both in physical presence and intelligence. If you look at Batman's rogues gallery, he tends to have really cerebral villains like Riddler or The Joker, or the physical ones like Killer Croc or Clayface. But there's just a handful who can match him mentally and physically. Mostly I just wanted to see Jorge design another iconic Jorge character. [Laughs] I wanted him to design a new villain, someone that Batman's going to have a lot of difficulty with.

Jimenez: It really is a design that I wanted to feel scary and cold, and at the same time cool and aesthetic. I hope it gives you the feeling that he is indestructible! That he doesn't care how many blows he receives, this guy never falls! And this is just...*terrifying*!



DON'T MISS *BATMAN* #125 ON SALE IN JULY!

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